

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0617

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MOVE TO TEGEL AND ROUTE

 SWAP

REF: (A) USBERLIN 293; (B) USBERLIN 341; (C) STATE 52354;

 (D) BONN 3869

1. PA AND BA HAVE HELD THREE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF SENAT AND BERLIN AIRPORT COMPANY (BFG) SINCE ELECTIONS, BUT HAVE YET TO CONCLUDE AIRLINE-BFG AGREEMENT FOR LEASE OF TEGEL SOUTH FACILITIES. CONSIDERATION ALSO GIVEN IN THESE MEETINGS TO POSTPONING SCHEDULED APRIL 7-8 MOVE TO TEGEL, WITH AIRLINES PREFERRING DELAY UNTIL NOV 1 BUT BFG - SENAT FAVORING MID-JULY. FOLLOWING MARCH 10 DPA REPORT THAT MOVE POSTPONED UNTIL NOV1, BFG SPOKESMAN STATED IN RESPONSE PRESS QUERY MARCH 11 THAT SENAT, AIRLINES, AND BFG HAD AGREED THAT MOVE TO TEGEL WOULD NOW TAKE PLACE ON SEPT 1. SPOKESMAN ATTRIBUTED DELAY TO PROBLEMS WITH PHYSICAL PLANT AND TO CONTINUED DISAGREEMENTS OVER CONTRACTS.

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2. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ TOLD ALLIED LAISON

OFFICERS MARCH 11 THAT SENAT WAS HIGHLY DISSATISFIED AT WHOLE TEGEL SITUATION. HE ACIDLY REMARKED THAT AIRLINES' ATTITUDE, APPARENTLY ONE OF COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR INTERESTS OF PUBLIC, WOULD INSPIRE EVEN MORE BERLINERS TO DRIVE RATHER THAN FLY TO FRG, AND WAS THUS CONTRARY TO AIRLINES' OWN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. SENAT APPARENTLY LAYS BLAME FOR DELAY IN MOVE TO TEGEL AS MUCH ON BFG AS ON AIRLINES, AND BFG BOARD OF OVERSEERS WILL PROBABLY MEET SOON TO CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AGAINST BFG DIRECTORS ON GROUNDS OF MISMANAGEMENT.

3. DEPARTMENT'S REFERENCE TO "EARLY BCATAG CONCURRENCE" TO "PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION OF ROUTE DIVISION" (REF C) GOES FURTHER THAN EMB'S NOTATION OF "USUAL PROCEDURAL STEPS INCLUDING BCATAG DISCUSSION" (REF D). OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT BCATAG LIMITED TO ADVISORY ROLE BY TERMS OF REFERENCE IN BONN GROUP STUDY ON BERLIN AIR SERVICES. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT CAAS' DECISIONS ON BERLIN AIR MATTERS REQUIRE GERMAN CONCURRENCE THROUGH BCATAG OR OTHER MECHANISM. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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